

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 RANGOO 01927 01 OF 02 261014Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----124041 261027Z /12
P 260942Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5446

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 RANGOON 1927

EXDIS

E.O. 11652/ XGDS-1,2
TAGS: SNAR, BM
SUBJ: NARCOTICS -- UTILIZATION OF INC-PROVIDED AIRCRAFT

REF: (A) STATE 132712, (B) RANGOON 1808

1. BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH THE LETTER TO U SHWE THAN, THERE ARE A FEW POINTS IN REFTEL A ON WHICH WE WOULD APPRECIATE FURTHER CLARIFICATION.

2. REF A PARA 1 STATES THAT "...WE CONCUR THAT THE EMBASSY SHOULD FOLLOW UP WITH U SHWE THAN RATHER THAN BY REQUESTING FORMAL UTILIZATION REPORTS FROM THE GUB." OUR PURPOSE IN WRITING TO U SHWE THAN WAS PRECISELY TO REQUEST FORMAL UTILIZATION REPORTS, NOT RPT NOT TO PRESENT AN ALTERNATIVE TO SUCH A REQUEST; AND THE LETTER WOULD CERTAINLY BE SO CONSTRUED BY THE GUB. IS THERE SOME CONFUSION ON THIS POINT?

3. REF A PARA 1 ALSO STATES THAT "WE WOULD INCORPORATE THE INFORMATION OBTAINED IN A REPORT TO THE CONGRESS, CONFORMING TO THE HIRC REPORT." WE ARE UNCLEAR AS TO WHICH HIRC REPORT THE DEPARTMENT HAS IN MIND, AND WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED OF ITS RELEVANT PROVISIONS SO THAT WE TOO CAN BE GUIDED THEREBY.

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4. PARA 2 OF REF A STATES THAT IT IS "...IMPORTANT FOR THE EMBASSY TO CONTINUE INDEPENDENT MONITORING TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE OF END-USE OF INC-PROVIDED AIRCRAFT. WE ANTICIPATE, HOWEVER, THAT OBTAINING A USEFUL CONTINUING FLOW OF INFORMATION ON THIS SUBJECT FROM THE BURMESE IS LIKELY TO BE DIFFICULT. WE WILL NEED TO EVALUATE THEIR RESPONSE CAREFULLY AND CONSIDER THE DEGREE OF DETAIL CONSIDERED NECESSARY." THE MEANING OF

THE FOREGOING IS NOT CLEAR TO US. OUR "INDEPENDENT MONITORING" OF THE USE OF THESE AIRCRAFT IS PRINCIPALLY BY INTELLIGENCE METHODS AND INCIDENTAL OBSERVATION. THEREFORE, WHILE IT IS CERTAINLY TRUE THAT OBTAINING A CONTINUING FLOW OF INFORMATION ON THIS SUBJECT FROM THE BURMESE IS LIKELY TO BE DIFFICULT, WE DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT "RESPONSE" IS TO BE EVALUATED. IN THIS CONTEXT, THE BURMESE ARE MAKING NO RESPONSE.

5. PARA 2 REF A ALSO STATES THAT "...THE BEST EMBASSY ROLE WOULD BE TO MAKE SPECIFIC REPRESENTATIONS AT A HIGH LEVEL WHEN VIOLATIONS ARE ALLEGED RATHER THAN APPEAR TO BE LOOKING OVER THE SHOULDER OF THE BURMA ARMY ON A DAY-TO-DAY BASIS." WHILE WE AGREE WITH THIS STATEMENT, IT LEAVES UNCLEAR THE RATHER IMPORTANT POINT OF WHO IS TO DO THE ALLEGING. THAT IS, WHEN OUR INDEPENDENT MONITORING INDICATES A MISUSE OF THE AIRCRAFT, SHOULD THE EMBASSY TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN RAISING IT WITH THE BURMESE OR SHOULD WE MAKE REPRESENTATIONS ONLY WHEN ALLEGATIONS OF MISUSE ARE MADE BY OTHERS, E.G., CONGRESS OR THE PRESS? FROM EARLIER DEPARTMENT EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN ABOUT THIS ISSUE WE WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THE MORE ACTIVE APPROACH WAS INTENDED (EVEN THOUGH THIS MIGHT WELL IRRITATE THE BURMESE BY SHOWING THEM THAT WE ARE TO SOME DEGREE LOOKING OVER THEIR SHOULDER), BUT THE WORDING OF THE QUOTED SENTENCE WOULD SUGGEST THE MORE PASSIVE POSTURE. PLEASE CLARIFY.

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----124121 261029Z /12

R 260942Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5447

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 RANGOON 1927

EXDIS

6. WE NOTE THAT THE REVISED TEXT OF THE LETTER (PARA 3 REF A) MAKES NO MENTION OF THE 1974 U.S.- BURMA AGREEMENT, UNDER THE TERMS OF WHICH THE AIRCRAFT HAVE BEEN PROVIDED. IN MAKING A FORMAL REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON UTILIZATION OF THE AIRCRAFT, WE HAD THOUGHT IT APPROPRIATE AND IMPORTANT TO CITE THIS AGREEMENT, WHICH IS THE ONLY FORMAL DOCUMENT OBLIGATING THE GUB TO USE THE AIRCRAFT PRIMARILY FOR NARCOTICS-RELATED PURPOSES AND

TO PROVIDE US WITH SOME SORT OF INFORMATION ON THEIR USE.
FAILURE TO MENTION THE AGREEMENT IN THE TEXT OF THE LETTER
COULD MAKE IT APPEAR THAT WE ARE ASKING THE BURMESE TO DO US
A FAVOR BY PROVIDING INFORMATION ON AIRCRAFT UTILIZATION RATHER
THAN ASKING THEM TO LIVE UP TO THEIR AGREED OBLIGATIONS. IF
THE DEPARTMENT DOES NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT OR USEFUL
TO REMIND THE GUB OF THE 1974 AGREEMENT AT THIS TIME, WE HAVE
NO OBJECTION TO NOT DOING SO. HOWEVER, WE WANT TO BE SURE THAT
THE DEPARTMENT'S OMISSION OF ANY REFERENCE TO THE AGREEMENT
IS INTENTIONAL RATHER THAN INADVERTENT.

7. FINALLY, AFTER LISTING THE KIND OF INFORMATION ON THE
AIRCRAFT WE DESIRE, THE REVISED TEXT OF THE LETTER (PARA 3
REF A) STATES THAT "IT WOULD GREATLY ASSIST THE DEPARTMENT
OF STATE IN JUSTIFYING OUR EXPENDITURES UNDER THE INTER-
NATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAM TO THE CONGRESS IF THIS
INFORMATION COULD ALSO BE PROVIDED IN THE FUTURE ON A
QUARTERLY BASIS BEGINNING IN OCTOBER." THE USE OF THE WORD
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"ALSO" MAKES UNCLEAR WHAT INITIAL TIME PERIOD IS DESIRED;
AND THE SENTENCE COULD WELL BE READ TO IMPLY THAT WE ARE
ASKING THE GUB TO GIVE US THE SPECIFIED INFORMATION ON THE
AIRCRAFT BEGINNING WITH THEIR ARRIVAL IN BURMA. IF THIS IS
WHAT THE DEPARTMENT DESIRES, IT SHOULD BE MORE CLEARLY STATED.
HOWEVER, IT IS MOST UNLIKELY THAT THE BURMESE WOULD HAVE
RETROACTIVE INFORMATION OF THE KIND WE NEED OR WOULD PROVIDE
IT IF THEY DID, AND THEREFORE SUCH A REQUEST MIGHT BE COUNTER-
PRODUCTIVE. OUR INTENT IN THE ORIGINAL WORDING OF THE LETTER
(REF B) WAS THAT IF THE BURMESE BASICALLY AGREED TO WHAT WE ARE
ASKING, THEY SHOULD START COLLECTING THE STIPULATED INFORMATION
FOR THE QUARTER BEGINNING JULY 1 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, AND
GIVE US THE FIRST REPORT IN OCTOBER AND QUARTERLY THEREAFTER.
PLEASE INDICATE WHETHER WE SHOULD REQUEST RETROACTIVE INFORMAT-
ION OR INFORMATION BEGINNING IN JULY, AND WE WILL WORD THE
LETTER ACCORDINGLY.
BEAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: DRUG CONTROL, AIRCRAFT, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 may 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: X2
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Expiration:
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From: RANGOON
Handling Restrictions:
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780514/aaaaalgk.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
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Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
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